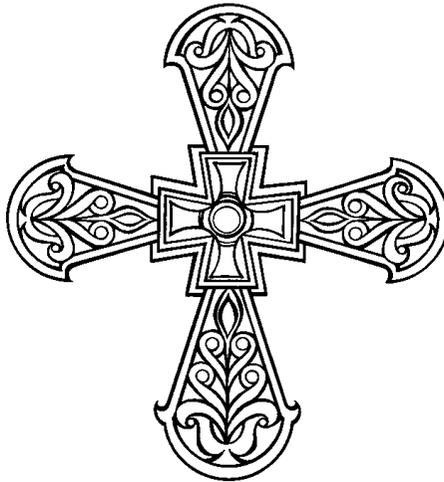


# Blackley and Moston Churches



## Confirmation Service

**Sunday 23rd February 2025 at 2.30pm**

*with the Rt Rev'd Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton*

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**Welcome to St Andrew's Blackley**

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A special welcome to Bishop Mark,  
and to our candidates and their families

Alfie  
Emilia  
Faith  
Favor  
Henry

Israel  
Louis  
Margot  
Noah  
Oliver

Sally  
Timmy  
Violet

We hope that you enjoy the service and can stay for refreshments afterwards in church, when you can meet the candidates and Bishop Mark, who will be glad to have photographs taken with you.

The Offering in this service is for the **Bishop's Fund for Ordination Candidates** to support candidates in training.

### **What is Confirmation?**

(taken from the Church of England website: <https://www.churchofengland.org/life-events/confirmation>)

Confirmation marks the point in the Christian journey at which you affirm for yourself the faith into which you have been baptised and your intention to live a life of committed discipleship. This affirmation is confirmed through prayer and the laying on of hands by the confirming bishop. The Church also asks God to give you power through the Holy Spirit to enable you to live in the way of Jesus.

### **Making decisions and promises**

When you were baptised as a child, your parents and godparents were asked to declare publicly on your behalf that they believed in God and that they would bring you up to follow Jesus. They were asked to answer, on your behalf, that you had decided to turn away from everything which is evil or sinful and instead to turn towards Christ. At confirmation, you will renew these decisions and promises. The declarations made by you will be made in front of the church congregation; the local Christian community will promise to support you and pray for you.

## The Preparation

*The Bishop and ministers enter the church. Please stand.*

### **The Opening Hymn: Lord of all hopefulness**

1. Lord of all hopefulness,  
Lord of all joy  
whose trust, ever child-like,  
no cares could destroy;  
be there at our waking,  
and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord,  
at the break of the day.

2. Lord of all eagerness,  
Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled  
at the plane and the lathe;  
be there at our labours,  
and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts Lord,  
at the noon of the day.

3. Lord of all kindness,  
Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome,  
your arms to embrace;  
be there at our homing,  
and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord,  
at the eve of the day.

*...continues overleaf*

4. Lord of all gentleness,  
Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment,  
whose presence is balm;  
be there at our sleeping,  
and give us we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord,  
at the end of the day.

## The Greeting

*The Bishop greets everyone*

*Bishop* Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
*All* **Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Bishop* There is one body and one spirit.  
*All* **There is one hope to which we were called;**

*Bishop* one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
*All* **one God and Father of all.**

*Bishop* Peace be with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

## Prayers of Penitence

*The Bishop leads us in silent prayer, and then prays the Collect.*

Almighty Father,  
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples  
with the sight of the risen Lord:  
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,  
that we may be strengthened and sustained  
by his risen life,  
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All**                    **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

**First Reading:** [Genesis 1.1 – 2.3](#)

Read by Katherine Strudwick, Lay Reader

*At the end of the reading*

*Reader*            This is the word of the Lord.

**All**                    **Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading:** [Matthew 6. 25 – end](#)

Read by Jody Swain, ALM

*At the end of the reading*

*Reader*            This is the word of the Lord.

**All**                    **Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn: Be still for the presence of the Lord

1. Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the holy One, is here;  
come bow before him now  
with reverence and fear.  
In him no sin is found  
we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the holy One, is here.

2. Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire,  
with splendour he is crowned:  
how awesome is the sight  
our radiant king of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.

3. Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place:  
he comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister his grace.  
No work too hard for him.  
In faith receive from him.  
Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.

The Rt. Rev'd Mark Davies, Bishop of Middleton

## **The Liturgy of Initiation**

### **The Presentation of the Candidates**

*The Candidates are presented to the congregation by their clergy. As each candidate's name is announced, they stand in their seats.*

*The Bishop asks those who are candidates for baptism:*

*Bishop* Do you wish to be baptised?

**Candidates I do**

*The Bishop asks those who are candidates for confirmation:*

*Bishop* Have you been baptised in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

**Candidates I have**

*The Bishop asks all candidates:*

*Bishop* Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own  
heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

**Candidates I am**

*The Bishop addresses the whole congregation*

*Bishop* People of God, will you welcome these candidates and  
uphold them in their life in Christ?

**All With the help of God, we will.**

*A short period of silence is kept.*

## **The Decision**

*The Bishop addresses all the candidates*

*Bishop* In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

**Candidates** **I reject them.**

*Bishop* Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**Candidates** **I renounce them.**

*Bishop* Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

**Candidates** **I repent of them.**

*Bishop* Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**Candidates** **I turn to Christ.**

*Bishop* Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**Candidates** **I submit to Christ.**

*Bishop* Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

**Candidates** **I come to Christ.**

*Bishop* May God who has given you the desire to follow Christ, give you strength to continue in the Way.

**All** **Amen.**

## **Hymn: Do not be afraid**

*Refrain:*

*Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name; you are mine.*

When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you;  
you will never sink beneath the waves.

*Refrain*

When the fire is burning all around you,  
you will never be consumed by the flames.

*Refrain*

When the fear of loneliness is looming,  
then remember I am at your side.

*Refrain*

When you dwell in the exile of a stranger,  
remember you are precious in my eyes.

*Refrain*

You are mine, O my child,  
I am your Father, and I love you with a perfect love.

*Refrain*

*The ministers and candidates for confirmation gather at the baptismal font*

## Signing with the Cross

*The Bishop makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate for baptism, saying:*

*Bishop* Christ claims you for his own.  
Receive the sign of the cross.

*When all the candidates for baptism have been signed, the Bishop says to them:*

*Bishop* Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ Crucified  
**All** **Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin,  
the world and the devil, and remain faithful  
until the end of your life.**

*Bishop* May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,  
restore you in the image of his glory,  
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.  
**All** **Amen**

## Prayer over the water

*All the candidates gather around the font and the Bishop addresses the congregation*

*Bishop* Praise God who made heaven and earth  
**All** **who keeps his promise for ever.**

*Bishop* Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptised in the  
river Jordan:  
we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive  
us.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph. Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin. Send your Holy Spirit upon them, bring them to new birth in the household of faith, and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever.

**All**                    **Amen.**

### **Profession of Faith**

*Bishop*                Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with these candidates the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**All**                    **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

*Bishop*                Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**All**                    **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

*Bishop* Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?  
*All* **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Baptism**

*The Bishop addresses each candidate for baptism by name, saying:*

*Bishop* N, is this your faith  
*Candidate* **This is my faith**

*The vicar or the person who prepared the candidate for baptism baptises the candidate, saying:*

*All* N, I baptise you in the name of the Father,  
the Son and the Holy Spirit  
**Amen**

*Bishop* May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may be daily renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.  
*All* **Amen**

*The candidates for confirmation who have previously been baptised may come forward to the font and sign themselves with water, or the bishop may sprinkle them, after which the bishop invites the congregation to join him in praying*

**All**                    **Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptised into your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

*The Bishop and the candidates gather at the place of confirmation*

### **Hymn: Holy Spirit**

*During the singing of a hymn, the bishop leads the candidates to the place of Confirmation.*

There's nothing worth more  
That will ever come close  
Nothing can compare  
You're our living hope  
Your presence

I've tasted and seen  
Of the sweetest of loves  
Where my heart becomes free  
And my shame is undone  
Your presence Lord

*...continued overleaf*

*Holy Spirit You are welcome here  
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere  
Your Glory God is what our hearts long for  
To be overcome by Your presence Lord*

There's nothing worth more  
That will ever come close  
Nothing can compare  
You're our living hope  
Your presence

I've tasted and seen  
Of the sweetest of loves  
Where my heart becomes free  
And my shame is undone  
Your presence Lord

*Holy Spirit You are welcome here  
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere  
Your Glory God is what our hearts long for  
To be overcome by Your presence Lord*

Let us become more aware of Your presence  
Let us experience the Glory of Your goodness  
Let us become more aware of Your presence  
Let us experience the Glory of Your goodness, Lord.

*Holy Spirit You are welcome here  
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere  
Your Glory God is what our hearts long for  
To be overcome by Your presence Lord*

## The Confirmation

*The Bishop stands before those who are to be confirmed*

*Bishop* Our help is in the name of the Lord  
**All** **who has made heaven and earth.**

*Bishop* Blessed be the name of the Lord  
**All** **now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Bishop extends his hands towards the candidates and says:*

*Bishop* Almighty and ever-living God, you have given these your servants new birth in baptism by water and the Spirit and in Christ have forgiven them all their sins. Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;  
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;  
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;  
and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.  
**All** **Amen.**

*Each candidate's supporters are invited to stand as their candidate comes forward for the laying-on of hands.*

*The Bishop addresses each candidate by name*

*Bishop* N, God has called you by name and made you his own.

*The bishop lays his hands on each candidate, saying:*

*Bishop* Confirm, O Lord, your servant N with your Holy Spirit.  
**All** **Amen.**

*The candidates return to their seats and remain standing*

*The Bishop invites the congregation to pray for all those who have been confirmed:*

**All**                    **Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace, that they may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.**

## **The Commission**

*The Bishop commissions all.*

*Bishop*                Those who are baptised are called to worship and serve God. Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**All**                    **With the help of God, I will.**

*Bishop*                Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**All**                    **With the help of God, I will.**

*Bishop*                Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

**All**                    **With the help of God, I will.**

*Bishop*                Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

**All**                    **With the help of God, I will.**

*Bishop* Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

**All** **With the help of God, I will.**

*Bishop* May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

**All** **Amen.**

## The Peace

*The Bishop introduces the Peace*

*Bishop* God has made us one in Christ.  
He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

**All** The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

*Bishop* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## The Offertory Hymn: I the Lord of Sea and Sky

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

*...continued overleaf*

*Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, Give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them, whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?...*

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord. Is it I Lord?...*

## **The Prayers of Intercession**

Led by Sylvia Major

*Please sit or kneel to pray.*

We pray that Christ may be seen in the life of the Church,  
saying: Jesus, Lord of the Church:

**All**                    **in your mercy, hear us.**

You have called us into the family of those who are the  
children of God. May our love for our brothers and sisters  
in Christ be strengthened by your grace.

Jesus, Lord of the Church:

**All**                    **in your mercy, hear us.**

You have called us to be a temple where the Holy Spirit can dwell. Give us clean hands and pure hearts so that our lives will reflect your holiness.

Jesus, Lord of the Church:

**All in your mercy, hear us.**

You have called us to be a light to the world so that those in darkness come to you. May our lives shine as a witness to the saving grace you have given for all.

Jesus, Lord of the Church:

**All in your mercy, hear us.**

You have called us to be members of your body, so that when one suffers, all suffer together. We ask for your comfort and healing power to bring hope to those in distress.

Jesus, Lord of the Church:

**All in your mercy, hear us.**

You have called us to be the Bride where you, Lord, are the Bridegroom. Prepare us for the wedding feast where we will be united with you for ever.

Jesus, Lord of the Church:

**All hear our prayer,  
and make us one in heart and mind to serve you  
with joy for ever.**

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your  
will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## The Sending Out

### The Blessing

*We all stand and the Bishop says:*

**All**

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.  
**Amen.**

God the Son, who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith.  
**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.  
**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## **Giving of a Lighted Candle**

*A hymn is sung, during which ministers give a lighted candle to each of those who have been baptised and confirmed.*

## **The Final Hymn: Shine Jesus Shine**

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining  
In the midst of the darkness, shining  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us  
Shine on me, shine on me

*Shine, Jesus, shine,  
fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze,  
set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow,  
flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light*

*...continued overleaf*

2. Lord, I come to your awesome presence  
From the shadows into your radiance  
By the blood I may enter your brightness  
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness  
Shine on me, shine on me

*Shine, Jesus, shine...*

3. As we gaze on your kingly brightness  
So our faces display your likeness  
Ever changing from glory to glory  
Mirrored here may our lives tell your story  
Shine on me, shine on me

*Shine, Jesus, shine  
Fill this land with the Father's glory  
Blaze, Spirit, blaze  
Set our hearts on fire  
Flow, river, flow  
Flood the nations with grace and mercy  
Send forth your word  
Lord, and let there be light*

*When all the candidates have received a lighted candle:*

*Bishop* God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness  
and has given us a place with the saints in light.  
You have received the light of Christ;  
walk in this light all the days of your life.

**All** **Shine as a light in the world  
to the glory of God the Father.**

### **The Dismissal**

*Bishop* Go in the light and peace of Christ.

**All** **Thanks be to God.**

*The Bishop leads the newly confirmed through the church.*

*Thank you for being here to support the candidates at their confirmation service. Please do stay and enjoy refreshments together after the service.*

*Bishop Mark will be happy to pose for photographs with the newly confirmed and anybody else who wishes him to.*





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